

Board Talking Points

April 2025

Spring is in the air! It's always a great time to enjoy outdoor sports and activities.

Legislative Session Education leaders have been tracking several bills in the 2025 session. Two themes are dominating the watch list:

- **Funding** It appears the \$11.4 billion SSF number is solidifying. Districts are encouraged to budget at this level. We are also hopeful for additional funding through the Special Education cap increase, which remains on the table.
- **Accountability** Governor Kotek and legislative leadership advanced SB 141, which outlines a new accountability system for Oregon schools. The bill incorporates five common metrics: Regular Attendance, 3rd Grade Reading, 9th Grade On-Track, 4-Year Graduation, and 5-year Completion. The Governor also proposes two new metrics: K-2 Attendance and 8th Grade Proficiency. Many of the details still remain to be worked out, including the use of local assessments and the SSA Longitudinal Growth Performance Targets. SB 141 has a great deal of support and will likely pass.

Crystal Apple Awards A highlight of the year is the annual Crystal Apple Ceremony, in which educators from across the region are recognized for their contribution to the field. Dates are as follows:

- **Union County** Monday, May 5, 5:15 PM, Eastern Oregon University, Gilbert Even Center
- **Umatilla/Morrow** Tuesday, May 13, 5:15 PM, Pendleton Convention Center

MISSION VISION

To provide outstanding customer service to our school districts in four areas: special education, technology, school improvement, and administrative services.

IMESD strives to ensure the success of every child by providing equitable services to close the opportunity gap. We are committed to the values of antiracism and multiculturalism.